

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FAULT-TOLERANT UPDATE  
OF FLASH ROM CONTENTS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5        Method and apparatus for updating the contents of a first memory of a computer system. In one embodiment, new information intended for the first memory is received by the computer system from an external source, wherein the first memory is for storing information that is required during startup of the computer system. The new information thus received is stored in a second  
10    memory capable of retaining information stored therein upon a restart of the computer system. The computer system is restarted without relying on the new information. The new ROM image can be pre-flighted before it is flashed into ROM. In this embodiment, the new information stored in the second memory can be verified to ensure that it is safe to load the new information into the first  
15    memory. When a positive verification result is obtained, the new information is loaded from the second memory into the first memory such that the new information can be used for a subsequent startup of the computer system. In a specific embodiment, the present invention includes the above and wherein the first memory comprises a flash ROM. In one embodiment, the present invention  
20    includes the above and wherein the computer system is a PDA. In a preferred embodiment, the present invention includes the above and wherein the new information is received by the computer system via wireless communication.